

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01076 280602Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
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R 271555Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE 2547
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1076

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: ENTRY VISAS FOR U.S. JOURNALISTS

REF PRAGUE 0769

1. DURING RECENT RECEPTION AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, ING. VACLAV SOBR OF MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT TOLD APAO THAT HE HAD HEARD RUMOR FROM COLLEAGUE ASSIGNED TO CSSR EMBASSY VIENNA THAT ERIC BOURNE MAY BE GRANTED ENTRY VISA AFTER ALL. SOBR, WHO IS SAME MFA OFFICIAL WHO INITIALLY SPELLED OUT GOC POLICY REQUIRING JOURNALISTS NOT TO MEET WITH DISSIDENTS, SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING, HOWEVER, TO CONFIRM THAT BOURNE WOULD ACTUALLY RECEIVE HIS VISA.
2. ASKED HOWLONG CURRENT POLICY OF REQUIRING JOURNALISTS PLEDGE TO AVOID DISSIDENTS WOULD CONTINUE, SOBR THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DROPPED IN ANOTHER MONTH OR SO, ADDING THAT MFA OFFICIALS REALIZED THEY COULD NOT CONTINUE THIS POLICY INDEFINITELY BUT HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO TRY IT OUT.

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3. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT SOBR'S REMARKS REFLECT DISCUSSION WITHIN MFA TO RESCIND CURRENT POLICY TOWARD WESTERN JOURNALISTS. THIS POLICY HAS DRAWN HEAVY FIRE IN WESTERN PRESS AND, GIVEN WEEKEND STATE OF CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT, COULD BE CONSTRUED TO SERVE LITTLE PURPOSE. GOC WOULD NO DOUBT LIKE TO DROP POLICY AS IT PREPARES FINAL TOUCHES OF WINDOW DRESSING FOR BELGRADE, IF THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT GIVING NEW LIFE TO CHARTER 77. IN THIS CONTEXT,

A VISIT BY BOURNE COULD SERVE AS A LITMUS TEST OF NEW MFA
APPROACH AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE CURRENTLY PROSTRATE DISSIDENT
MOVEMENT.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENTRY VISAS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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